

Message Text

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ORIGIN NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 CIAE-00

DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01

PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 CU-02 A-01 OPR-02 SY-05 SCCT-01

ACDA-05 EUR-12 IO-11 /090 R

DRAFTED BY NEA/AFN:MCKING

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI IMMEDIATE

INFO AMEMBASSY ALGIERS

AMEMBASSY TUNISIA

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, PINS, LY

SUBJECT: LIBYAN STUDENTS SIT-IN AT EMBASSY

REF: STATE 8065, TRIPOLI 57

1. AS OF 1000 JANUARY 14, DEPARTMENT HAS BEEN UNABLE
CONTACT LIBYAN EMBASSY OFFICIALS. STUDENTS ARE TAKING ALL
INCOMING CALLS. IT APPEARS THEY MAY AGREE TO LEAVE THIS
AFTERNOON.

2. SIT-IN RECEIVED MODERATE MEDIA COVERAGE LOCALLY - FIRST
PICKED UP BRIEFLY BY RADIO AND EVENING TV NEWS PROGRAMS.
NEWS STORIES, BASED ON INTERVIEW WITH STUDENTS, SAID SIT-
IN WAS IN PROTEST QUOTE ACTIONS OF THEIR GOVERNMENT
WHICH . . . RESULTED IN THE KILLING, WOUNDING AND ARREST

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OF OUR BROTHERS END QUOTE (BALTIMORE SUN). WASHINGTON POST

QUOTED STUDENT SPOKESMAN AS SAYING THEY WANTED TO QUOTE
SHOW THEIR SOLIDARITY WITH THE DEMANDS OF FELLOWSTUDENTS
AT HOME WHO WANT THE RIGHT TO FORM A DEMOCRATIC STUDENT
UNION END QUOTE. POST QUOTED SPOKESMAN AS SAYING QUOTE
OFFICIALS OF THE EMBASSY WERE VERY UNDERSTANDING AND
EMPLOYEES WERE FREE TO COME AND GO IF THEY DESIRED, ALTHOUGH
NO WORK WAS BEING DONE INSIDE END QUOTE. MOST MEDIA
REPORTED THAT EMBASSY OFFICIALS HAD TURNED DOWN OFFERS OF
ASSISTANCE BY EXECUTIVE PROTECTIVE SERVICE OR FBI.

3. FOLLOWING IS DEPARTMENT PRESS GUIDANCE FOR JANUARY 14:

QUOTE Q. WHAT CAN YOU TELL US ABOUT THE EVENTS AT THE
LIBYAN EMBASSY AND THEIR BACKGROUND? A. ON JANUARY 4,
1976, STUDENTS OF BENGHAZI UNIVERSITY DEMONSTRATED IN
PROTEST OVER THE STUDENT UNION ELECTIONS. ACCORDING TO
A LIBYAN GOVERNMENT STATEMENT, THE VIOLENCE SPILLED OVER
INTO THE CITY OF BENGHAZI WHERE STUDENTS SET FIRE TO THE
ARAB SOCIALIST UNION BUILDING. ON JANUARY 8 LIBYAN
STUDENTS IN CAIRO STAGED A SIT-IN IN THEIR COUNTRY'S
EMBASSY IN PROTEST AGAINST THE ALLEGED KILLING OF STUDENTS
BY POLICE IN THE JANUARY 4 CLASH. ON JANUARY 12, LIBYAN
STUDENTS IN LONDON ALSO STAGED A SIT-IN AT THEIR EMBASSY.
ALL REPORTS INDICATE BOTH SIT-INS, IN CAIRO AND LONDON,
HAVE BEEN PEACEFUL. ON JANUARY 13, THE DEPARTMENT OF
STATE ORDERED INTENSIFIED PROTECTION ATTENTION TO BE
PROVIDED TO THE LIBYAN EMBASSY HERE AND SO INFORMED THE
LIBYAN DIPLOMATIC OFFICER IN CHARGE, MR. YOUSSEF GADDOUR.
AT ABOUT 1:30 ON JANUARY 13, THE EXECUTIVE PROTECTION
SERVICE NOTICED A LARGE GROUP OF STUDENTS ENTERING THE
LIBYAN EMBASSY. THEY OFFERED EMBASSY OFFICIALS ASSISTANCE
IF NECESSARY, BUT WERE TOLD NONE WAS NEEDED. THE EPS
REMAINED OUTSIDE THE EMBASSY IN CASE OF NEED. A DEPARTMENT
OFFICER ATTEMPTED TO REACH MR. GADDOUR OVER THE TELEPHONE
AT 2:00 BUT WAS TOLD HE WAS UNAVAILABLE. THE PERSON
ANSWERING THE PHONE CLAIMED THAT HE WAS A LIBYAN STUDENT
AND THAT A QUOTE PEACEFUL SIT-IN END QUOTE WAS IN PROGRESS.
HE CLAIMED THAT THE LIBYAN GOVERNMENT HAD QUOTE AUTHORIZED
END QUOTE THE EMBASSY TO PERMIT THE STUDENTS TO REMAIN.
WE ARE FOLLOWING THE SITUATION CLOSELY. THE EPS WILL
REMAIN RESPONSIVE TO ANY REQUEST FOR ASSISTANCE FROM THE
LIBYAN EMBASSY. Q. HAS THERE BEEN ANY VIOLENCE? ARE
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EMBASSY OFFICIALS BEING HELD AGAINST THEIR WILL? A. WE
HAVE BEEN UNABLE TO MAKE ANY CONTACT WITH EMBASSY OFFICIALS.
SO FAR AS WE KNOW FROM OUTSIDE OBSERVATION, THERE HAS
BEEN NO VIOLENCE. BUT, AS WE HAVE SAID, WE ARE WATCHING
THE SITUATION CLOSELY. THE EPS WILL REMAIN RESPONSIVE
TO ANY REQUEST FOR ASSISTANCE FROM THE LIBYAN EMBASSY.
END QUOTE.

4. NEWSCLIPPINGS BEING POUCHED. KISSINGER

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Margaret P. Grafeld
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